Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a reconfigurable unit having runtime-limited configurations, comprising:

processing in accordance with a first configuration having a maximum allowed runtime;

increasing, by a configuration, the first configuration's maximum allowed runtime;

if an interrupt occurs, suppressing ~~wherein~~ the increase ~~increasing is suppressed~~ in response to [[an]] the interrupt; and

if no interrupt occurs, reconfiguring the reconfigurable unit with a second configuration in response to expiry of the increased maximum allowed runtime, the increased maximum allowed runtime expiring if the first configuration, in a non-error operation and for at least one of a task switch and a thread switch, does not further increase the maximum allowed runtime.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the configuration triggers a parallel counter to perform the increasing.

7. (New) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

determining whether a processing of the interrupt requires handling within the maximum allowed runtime, wherein, where a determination in the determining step is that the interrupt requires handling within the maximum allowed runtime, the interrupt is handled on a component reserved for handling of interrupts requiring immediate handling and on which the configuration is not run.

8. (New) A method for operating a reconfigurable unit having runtime-limited configurations, comprising:

processing in accordance with a configuration having a maximum allowed runtime;

determining by the configuration whether extension of the maximum allowed runtime is usable by the configuration;

responsive to a positive determination in the determining step, triggering an increase, by the configuration, of the configuration's maximum allowed runtime; and

suppressing the increase in response to an interrupt.

9. (New) A method for operating a reconfigurable unit having runtime-limited configurations, comprising:

increasing, by a configuration, the configuration's maximum allowed runtime;

suppressing the increase in response to an interrupt; and

reconfiguring the reconfigurable unit with a new configuration for handling the interrupt responsive to expiry of the maximum allowed runtime.

10. (New) A method for operating a reconfigurable unit having runtime-limited configurations, comprising:

processing in accordance with a first configuration having a maximum allowed runtime; and

if an interrupt does not occur:

the first configuration triggering a counter reset, the counter reset increasing the maximum allowed runtime;

subsequent to the counter reset, and in a non-error operation for a task switch, the counter counting to the increased maximum allowed runtime without a retriggering of the counter by the first configuration; and

responsive to the reaching of the increased maximum allowed runtime, performing one of a task switch and a thread switch by reconfiguring the reconfigurable unit with a second configuration;

wherein, if an interrupt does occurs, the maximum allowed runtime is not increased.

11. (New) A reconfigurable unit, comprising:

configurable cells configurable with a configuration having a maximum allowed runtime, wherein the configuration is adapted to trigger a counter reset to increase its maximum allowed runtime conditional at least upon that an interrupt is not detected and processing is to continue without a thread switch and without a task switch.